Chair’s Welcome

Greetings and best wishes to all the friends and alumni of the Department of Anthropology at Northwestern. As we come to the end of another academic year, it is time to reflect on the tremendous accomplishments of our faculty, students, and staff.

During a time when many Anthropology programs are experiencing retrenchment and declining enrollments, our Department continues to grow and thrive. Indeed, the size and strength of our Department have increased dramatically, in terms of faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, research activity and extramural funding. As one of the leading Anthropology programs in the country, our goal is to extend our position as the nation’s signature four-field program, elaborating the Department’s distinctive vision for research and education.

Below is a small sampling of the impressive achievements over the last year:

Faculty hiring. We have been successful in recruiting an extraordinary group of new faculty to our program over the last year. Last fall, we welcomed Dr. Katie Amato to the Department as an Assistant Professor in biological anthropology. Katie’s work on comparative and evolutionary perspectives on the gut microbiome is on the cutting edge of science in bioanthropology and will expand the focus of our human biology program.

In September, three new tenure-line Assistant Professors will be joining us: Drs. Adia Benton, Sera Young, and Emrah Yildiz. Adia Benton is a medical anthropologist who has done groundbreaking work on HIV/AIDS and the uneven distribution of health care delivery in Africa. Adia will play an active role in strengthening the Department’s medical anthropology focus, while also contributing to the Global Health and African Studies programs.

(continued on page 2)
Chair's Welcome, continued

Sera Young is a nutritional anthropologist with an impressive research program that is examining issues of food security and maternal-child health in East Africa. Sera’s research and teaching will expand the Department’s strengths in the areas of nutritional anthropology and global health.

Emrah Yıldız is a cultural anthropologist whose research is at the cutting edge of scholarship in both anthropology and Middle East and North African (MENA) studies. Emrah’s work examines the mobility of people in the Middle East, Islamic ritual, and commerce across borders and states. He will be jointly appointed with the MENA Program, further enriching the Department’s engagement with this important region.

Faculty Achievements in Research & Teaching. This year’s program review provided us with an opportunity to directly assess how dramatically the scope and impact of the Department’s research and teaching have expanded. Over the last decade the Department has averaged almost a million dollars in external grant funding per year, more than four times the funding level in the early 2000’s. During this period, our faculty have produced more than 700 publications, including refereed papers in the highest impact journals of anthropology and general science and 21 field-defining books with top university presses.

In light of these contributions, our faculty have been recognized with prestigious distinctions within the university and across our discipline. Just in the last year some of the most notable achievements have been: Thom McDade being endowed as the Carlos Montezuma Professor of Anthropology and elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS; Section H), Jessica Winegar being appointed as the Harold H. and Virginia Anderson Chair, Cynthia Robin and Mark Hauser being elected as fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Rebecca Seligman being tenured and promoted to Associate Professor, and Shalini Shankar being promoted to full Professor.

Our faculty also continue to be among the best teachers and mentors in the College. Over the last year, several of our faculty have been honored with prestigious teaching awards -- Helen Schwartzman received the Weinberg Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research, Cynthia Robin was recognized with the Karl Rosengren Undergraduate Mentoring Award, and Noelle Sullivan was selected for the Associate Student Government Faculty Honor Roll.

Graduate Program. Our graduate students continue do to us proud, as our program is now among the strongest in the country. Particularly notable is our students’ success with external grants and fellowships. Over the last decade our students have received an impressive 23 NSF Graduate Research Fellowships, 26 NSF Dissertation Improvement Grants and 29 Wenner-Gren Dissertation Research Awards. Our students also have had great success in job placement, securing post-doctoral fellowships and tenure-line positions in academia as well as prominent research positions in the non-profit and policy worlds.

Undergraduate Program. The Department’s undergraduate program continues to flourish, attracting strong students to all the core subfields of our major. The current size of our undergraduate program is double what it was 10 years ago. The growth of our major is attributable to the excellent teaching and mentoring of our faculty, and our Department’s strong commitment to undergraduate research and training. Each year, all of our seniors carry out original research which is often funded by undergraduate research grants. These projects regularly garner awards and recognition within the University and at national conferences. Moreover, we find that this training in research and scholarly writing contributes to the success of our majors in a variety of different career tracks (e.g., medicine and the health sciences, law, business, graduate school/academia).

Your support has been critical to our success. Each year, generous contributions from the friends and alumni of the Department allow us to support summer research projects, field school participation, language training, and conference travel for both our graduate and undergraduate students. In addition, this year a new endowment created by Tim and Eliza Earle is allowing the Department to provide full funding for two outstanding doctoral dissertation projects. The inaugural recipients of the Earle Dissertation Awards are: Vanessa Waters (“Prosperity on the Periphery: Christian Social Welfare in Coastal West Africa”) and Bilal Nasir (“Secular Power in the Counterterror State: Social Science, Islamic Ethics, and Racial Solidarity in the War on Terror”).

I sincerely thank all of our donors for their generosity and commitment to the Department. Your contributions are making a tremendous difference in supporting the transformative work of our faculty and students.

With my warmest regards,

William R. Leonard

Abraham Harris Professor and Chair of Anthropology
Faculty Awards and Honors

Thom McDade was named Carlos Monte-zuma Professor of Anthropology. Thom was also elected Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world’s largest general scientific society.

Bill Leonard delivered the Distinguished Lecture to the Biological Anthropology Section of the American Association of Anthropologists at the 2015 National Conference. The title of his talk was *Paleo diets and Hominin Energy: Evolutionary Perspectives on Human Nutrition.*

Mark Hauser was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in London, a venerable and distinguished group, founded in 1707, with interests in the material past and offices, archives and library alongside the Royal Academy and Royal Society in central London. Prof. Hauser joins Tim Earle, Matthew Johnson and Cynthia Robin as Fellows.

Jessica Winegar was named the Harold H. and Virginia Anderson Chair.

Cynthia Robin has received the Karl Rosengren Faculty Mentoring Award for mentoring undergraduate research.

Noelle Sullivan was selected for the 2015-16 Associated Student Government Faculty Honor Roll.

Faculty Around the World

Helen Schwartzman just returned from spending the month of May in Stockholm as a Guest Professor at the Stockholm Centre for Organizational Research (Score) at Stockholm University and the Stockholm School of Economics. During her time at Score she gave a Public Seminar and a Workshop (with Renita Thedvall) on "Meetings: Everywhere and Nowhere." Helen was also invited to visit Lund University where she gave a talk at the Sociology Seminar Series on May 20 on the topic, "The Dance and Drama of Meetings: An Anthropological Perspective." In July Helen and Renita Thedvall (from Score) will Co-Chair a day-long session on "Meetings: The ‘Infrastructure’ of Work in Local and Global Settings" at the 14th Biennial Conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) to be held in Milan.

Robert Launay as Santa in the field
Faculty Books—Jessica Winegar

Jessica Winegar published a book in 2015 called *Anthropology's Politics: Disciplining the Middle East* (Stanford University Press). Written with Lara Deeb (Scripps College), it is the first academic study to shed critical light on the political and economic pressures that shape how U.S. scholars research and teach about the Middle East. The book shows how Middle East politics and U.S. gender and race hierarchies affect scholars across their careers—from the first decisions to conduct research in the tumultuous region, to ongoing politicized pressures from colleagues, students, and outside groups, to hurdles in sharing expertise with the public. Anthropology’s Politics offers a complex portrait of how academic politics ultimately hinders the education of U.S. students and potentially limits the public's access to critical knowledge about the Middle East.

Faculty Books—Cynthia Robin

*Everyday Life Matters: Maya Farmers at Chan* by Cynthia Robin.

While the study of ancient civilizations most often focuses on temples and royal tombs, a substantial part of the archaeological record remains hidden in the understudied day-to-day lives of artisans, farmers, hunters, and other ordinary people of the ancient world. Various chores completed during the course of a person’s daily life, though at first glance trivial, have a powerful impact on society as a whole. *Everyday Life Matters* develops general methods and theories for studying the applications of everyday life in archaeology, anthropology, and a wide range of related disciplines.

Examining the two-thousand-year history (800 B.C.-A.D. 1200) of the ancient farming community of Chan in Belize, Cynthia Robin’s ground-breaking work explains why the average person should matter to archaeologists studying larger societal patterns. Robin argues that the impact of the mundane can be substantial, so much so that the study of a polity without regard to its citizenry is incomplete. Refocusing attention away from the Maya elite and offering critical analysis of daily life elucidated by anthropological theory, Robin engages us to consider the larger implications of the commonplace and to rethink the constitution of human societies by ordinary people living routine lives.

Faculty Books—Rebecca Seligman

Rebecca Seligman published a book in 2014, entitled *Possessing Spirits and Healing Selves: Embodiment and Transformation in an Afro-Brazilian Religion* (Palgrave Macmillan). In the book Seligman takes an intimate look at the experiences of spirit possession mediums in Brazil. The book uses in-depth analysis of mediums’ narratives as the basis for an exploration of the cognitive and discursive aspects of becoming a medium, integrating these analyses with a theoretically rich and empirically grounded investigation of the bodily and experiential dimensions of religious self-transformation. Through these analyses, Seligman demonstrates how recursive interactions between self-understandings and bodily states of mediums transform their experiences and contribute to healing. The book works to advance our understanding of both selfhood and embodiment, demonstrating how they emerge through complex looping effects among shared and individual meanings, intersubjective and bodily processes – including material processes of human physiology.
Faculty Books—Shalini Shankar

Shalini Shankar’s book *Advertising Diversity: Ad Agencies and the Creation of Asian American Advertising* (2015) is based on ethnographic fieldwork funded by the National Science Foundation (BCS 0924472) in Asian American and general market agencies in New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The book considers how, in a "post-racial" era, race has taken center stage in advertising, especially in response to the diversity reported in the 2010 census. It considers the process of advertising development and production from political economic as well as semiotic perspectives to investigate how ethnoracial difference is negotiated in corporate America, among ad executives, and represented in ads.

Welcome New Faculty

Assistant Professor **Katie Amato** is a biological anthropologist studying the gut microbiota in the broad context of host ecology and evolution. Her current research focuses on microbial contributions to host nutrition during periods of reduced food availability or increased nutritional demands, as well as microbial influences on brain growth. She has worked in the field extensively with black howler monkeys in southeastern Mexico, and is establishing projects with both humans and non-human primates in other parts of the world. Dr. Amato’s work is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society. She was recently invited to speak at TEDx Jackson Hole and the Early Career Scientists Symposium at the University of Michigan.

**Adia Benton** is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African studies. She has written a highly regarded book on *HIV Exceptionalism: Development through Disease in Sierra Leone*. She is conducting research related to Ebola and is involved in consolidating global surgery as a new field in the social sciences. She is also developing two new books: *The Ebola Fieldnotes: Remote Anthropology in a Time of Crisis*, and *Citizen Surgeon: Global Surgery and Ideologies of Global Health*.

Sera Young joins Northwestern as Assistant Professor of Anthropology. The focus of Professor Young’s work is on the reduction maternal and child undernutrition in sub-Saharan Africa. Methodologically, she draws on her training in medical anthropology (MA, University of Amsterdam) and international nutrition (PhD, Cornell) to take a biocultural approach to improving maternal and child nutrition and health. Her specific areas of interest include the impacts of food insecurity on maternal and child health, especially infant and young child feeding, animal source foods, the prevention of maternal-to-child transmission of HIV, evaluative ethnography, and pica, or non-food cravings. Currently, she has ongoing studies in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. She is the author of over 40 publications, and the book, *Craving Earth* for which she received the Margaret Mead Award.

Assistant Professor **Emrah Yıldız** is a cultural anthropologist whose research is at the cutting edge of scholarship in both anthropology and Middle East and North African (MENA) studies. Emrah’s work examines the mobility of people in the Middle East, Islamic ritual, and commerce across borders and states. He will be jointly appointed with the MENA Program, further enriching the Department’s engagement with this important region.

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Message from Cynthia Robin, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Our undergraduate majors and minors are rising anthropologists who are setting course across the globe to study world cultures and human biology past and present. This year we are congratulating our 32 majors and minors in Anthropology who will be graduating in June. Each of our seniors carried out original research in anthropology as part of their final year in the program. Here is a sampling of the senior projects that won Departmental, University and even national and international recognition.

Senior Neha Reddy studied community health workers in rural Africa as part of her internship at Last Mile Health in Liberia. Her thesis was awarded the Friends of Anthropology Award for Distinguished Honors Thesis in Public Anthropology. Neha will spend next year in India as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar studying sex selection along the maternal health pathway in Andhra Pradesh.

Senior Chia-Ping Chin conducted interviews and collected dietary recall and anthropometric measurement for 30 Northwestern students to study dietary acculturation among East Asian International College students. Her research was funded by a Northwestern University Undergraduate Research Grant and was awarded the Oswald Werner Prize for Distinguished Honors Thesis in Anthropology. She presented her research at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

Senior Elizabeth Fillion studied a bone assemblage from Swartkrans Cave in Johannesburg, South Africa, determining that their distinctive wear pattern could only have been produced by hominins. Her research was funded by a Northwestern University Undergraduate Research Grant and the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. She was awarded the Elizabeth M. Brumfiel Award for Distinguished Honors Thesis in Archaeology.

Senior Melissa Jones studied the unconquered Maya living in the frontier zone of northern Belize between the Spanish and British colonial heartlands. Her research was funded by a Northwestern University Undergraduate Research Grant. She was awarded the Fletcher Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research and will be presenting her research results at the Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium this summer.

Lauren Monz studied ceramics and trade relations of the ancient Wari State in the Ayacucho Basin of Peru with funding from a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates Grant.

Senior Jennifer Reese developed a Geographical Information System (GIS) model to examine how the ancient Maya city of Aventura in Belize grew and changed through time with funding from a Northwestern University Undergraduate Research Grant.

Senior Kirby Barth studied food preferences in the face of globalizing food markets in Sevilla, Spain with funding from a Northwestern University Undergraduate Research Grant.

Our juniors are already beginning to embark on their research projects in Anthropology.

With funding from the Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Studies, junior Odette Zero spent the past summer in Guatemala exploring cultural perceptions of diabetes, research that will be the basis of her senior project next year.

Junior Anne Debertin received a Northwestern University Undergraduate Research Grant to study the effects of dietary fat on BAT activity. Junior Makeda Springette received a Northwestern University Undergraduate Research Grant to study implicit social attitudes. Junior Janay Terry received a Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences grant to study donated toys for child patients at La Rabida hospital.

We also want to congratulate our award winning professors this year and all of our professors who work dedicatedly to mentor our students. Professor Noelle Sullivan was selected for the 2015-16 Associated Student Government Faculty Honor Roll. Professor Cynthia Robin won the Karl Rosen gren Faculty Mentoring Award.
Message from Jessica Winegar, Director of Graduate Studies

Our graduate program continues to impress with the quality and breadth of student research, grants and fellowships, and commitment to critiquing inequality. This year we are conferring doctoral degrees on eight fabulous scholars! That’s 8 new Northwestern anthropology PhDs going out into the world as postdoctoral fellows, tenure track professors, and social science researchers in the non-profit and policy worlds. Congrats to everyone!

Just as we found out that we rank 5th in the National Research Council’s assessment of graduate programs in anthropology, we also welcomed six new scholars into our program. Along with their colleagues, they are conducting research around the world on topics as diverse as ethnic, racial, and religious minorities, social movements, health disparities, environment, food and nutrition, and arts and media. For this research, our students received over one dozen prestigious grants, fellowships, and awards from various foundations and academic associations this year, a few of which are featured in this newsletter. Once again, our graduate students made Anthropology one of the top departments within Weinberg College in terms of external recognition. Our students have garnered 87 major fellowships and grants in the past 10 years alone!

And our graduate students are sharing their research in high profile venues. At a department symposium in November, a number of our students practiced presenting papers in advance of the American Anthropological Association meeting. In all, over twenty of our students had papers accepted for presentation at a range of national conferences, including the AAA, the Society for American Archaeology, and the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

This year students took a panoply of exciting courses in the department such as “Materialities,” “Archaeologies, Communities, and Publics,” “Social Movements,” “Mind, Body, and Health,” “Society, Biology, and Health,” “Law and Human Rights,” “Anthropology of the State,” and “Advanced Topics in Linguistic Anthropology.” They were also able to meet with all of our visiting colloquium speakers, all NU alumni, over a group lunch to talk about research histories and trends. A new professionalization workshop series was a highlight of the year. In various workshops with different anthropology faculty and staff from The Graduate School, students learned valuable skills such as composing academic job market materials, writing grants, transferring skills for non-academic jobs, preparing to write the dissertation, and preparing to go off to the field.

Last but not least, our graduate students spearheaded the Green Office Certification of the Department of Anthropology at Northwestern University. In honor of this renewed commitment to the environment, the students led the Department in a tree planting ceremony in front of the department.

We look forward to welcoming a new cohort of excellent young scholars in the fall, and to celebrating more PhD recipients next year.
Graduate Student Awards and other Honors

**Morgan Hoke** recently won the E.E. Hunt Prize for best graduate student paper at the Human Biology Association Meetings, “Feeding babies, feeding inequalities: A Biocultural examination of changing economic activity, infant feeding, and early growth in Nuñoa, Peru”. She also won the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship. [Read More.]

**Vanessa Watters** won 2016 Global Politics and Religion Summer Graduate Research Fellowship "Prosperity on the Periphery: Christian Social Welfare in Coastal West Africa". This project examines the coastal West African region as an important historical corridor for Catholic and Pentecostal institutions, as well as contemporary exchanges and transformations in Christian communities. Vanessa will conduct preliminary fieldwork with religious organizations in the capital cities of Accra, Lomé, and Cotonou to consider how the shifting centers of global Christian membership are managed transnationally through the promotion of economic and social welfare programs.

**Ruby Fried** received a Wenner-Gren Doctoral Dissertation Grant for her research on "Intergenerational Impacts of Culture Change: Traditional food and the metabolic functioning of Alaska Native peoples".

**Elizabeth Derderian** received an Al Qasimi Foundation Grant for work on her study “Building an International Cultural Capital: Reconfiguring Paradigms of Culture and the State in the UAE”.

**Chris Hernandez** received an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant for his research on "Warfare and the Transformation of Social Order at Tzunun, Chiapas, Mexico".

**Dario Valles** has been awarded a Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for 2016-2017.

**Kat Catlin** has been awarded a fellowship from the Leifur Eiríksson Foundation to help support her dissertation research in Iceland. Kat is researching connections between anthropogenic environmental degradation, re-use and abandonment of infrastructure, and social inequality in medieval Iceland. She has also received a grant from the National Science Foundation’s Arctic Social Sciences Program for her dissertation research in Iceland. [Read More.]

**Ashley Agbasoga** has been awarded the Tepoztlán-Northwestern Graduate Fellowship. The fellowship is a partnership between Northwestern and the Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas. In addition to a stipend, the fellowship covers travel expenses to the summer Tepoztlán conference. The theme for this summer’s conference is: “Racist Violence: From the Colonial Past to the Urgent Present.”

**Mary Elena (Ella) Wilhoit** was awarded the Eric Wolf Paper Prize from SAW (the Society for the Anthropology of Work) and the AFA (Association of Feminist Anthropologists) Dissertation Award.

**Aydin Ozipek** received a Wenner-Gren Foundation Award for dissertation research project.

**Vinita (V) Chaudhry** was awarded the SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship (2016).

**Almita Miranda** received The César Chávez Dissertation Fellowship, Dartmouth College (2015-2016).

**Matilda Stubbs** has been awarded a stipend for exceptional teaching skills at Northwestern University. Ms. Stubbs will teach “Auto Ethnography: The Anthropology of Cars.” The WCAS/TGS Teaching Fellowship is made possible with funding from The Graduate School and the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences.
2016 Dissertations & Placements

Sarah Taylor
“Growing Good Food in the City: A Multi-Method Study of Gardening and Health in Two Chicago” Communities
PhD/MPH August 2015
Advisor: William Leonard
Committee: Rebecca Seligman, Amanda Logan, Elizabeth Sweet, Rebecca Wurtz

Pilar Escontrías
PhD June 2016
Advisor: Cynthia Robin Rivera
Committee: Timothy Earle, Ryan Williams, Sofia Chacaltana

Research Social Scientist and Project Manager at The American Bar Foundation

Bradley Phillippi
“From Coercion to Compensation: Labor Systems and Spatial Practice on a Plural Farmstead, Long Island”
PhD March 2016
Advisor: Mark Hauser
Committee: Cynthia Robin Rivera, Matthew Johnson
Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Hofstra University

Elizabeth Harman
“Hearing Sex: An Ethnographic and Ethnomusicological Study of Strip-tease in the Midwestern US”
PhD June 2016
Advisor: Micaela di Leonardo
Committee: Shalini Shankar, Matthew Johnson, Ramon River-Servera, D. Soyini Madison

Mary Elena (Ella) Wilhoit
"'Women Always Work More Here': Gendered Labor and Chosen Families in the Rural Andes"
PhD Date June 2016
Advisor: Mary Weismantel
Committee: Micaela di Leonardo, Robert Launay, Jorge Coronado, Florence Babb
Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Lyon College

Bethlehem Dejene
"Policing the boundaries of the 'Orthodox': Modernity, Evil, and Morality in Exorcisms of Post-Socialist Addis Ababa"
PhD June 2016
Advisor: Robert Launay
Committee: Rebecca Seligman, Helen Schwartzman

Kristin Landau
“Maintaining the State: Centralized Power and Urban Neighborhoods in Copan, Honduras”
PhD Date June 2016
Advisor: Cynthia Robin Rivera
Committee: Matthew Johnson, Timothy Earle, William Fash
Josh Snodgrass, professor at the University of Oregon, researches the demographic trends over the past few decades, driven by shifts in lifestyles and urbanization, highlighting the prominence of chronic conditions at older ages. His talk, “Health and Aging Among Older Adults in Middle Income Countries” was held in February.

Rob Beck’s talk “The Iron in the Posthole: Witchcraft, Women’s Labor, and Spanish Folk Ritual at the Berry Site” examined apotropaic devices—folk ritual objects and deposits used as supernatural protections—at the Berry site. Rob is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and associate curator of Eastern North American Archaeology in the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. His research interests include the archaeology and ethnohistory of complex societies in eastern North America and the Andes of Bolivia and Peru, early colonial encounters in what is now the southern United States, and the broader issues related to social organization and change.

Susan Carol Rogers is Associate Professor of Anthropology at NYU. She is co-editor with Anne Raulin of Parallaxes Transatlantiques: Vers une anthropologie réciproque (CNRS, 2012), and is finishing an English version of the volume (Berghahn, 2015). Her long term research in rural France has resulted in co-authorship of Paysans, Femmes et Citoyens: Luttes pour le pouvoir dans un village lorrain (Actes Sud, 1980) and authorship of Shaping Modern Times in Rural France: Transformation and reproduction of an Aveyronnais community (Princeton, 1992), as well as of numerous articles in American and French journals. Co-founder of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe, she also teaches in the areas of food, family and kinship, and history of anthropology. Her October talk was entitled “Dazzle and Dismay: An Experiment in Reciprocal Anthropology.”

Jean Ensminger, in her talk “Case Studies in Village Corruption” discussed the failure in delivering aid to poor communities in the developing world through one of the most broadly employed mechanism design, community driven development. She investigates how community driven development really works in the field; following the money, access to information, and incentives of participants in a number of micro-projects in Kenya. Jean is Edie and Lew Wasserman professor of Social Science at Caltech.

Heidi Swank gave a talk in February entitled “Policy and Anthropology or Making the Most of the Great Recession”. She is an American politician and Democratic Member of the Nevada State Assembly since February 2013.

Victoria Bernal’s talk “National Symbols, Virtual Power, and Eritrean Politics Online” was held in March. Victoria is Professor at UC—Irvine and is a cultural anthropologist whose scholarship in political anthropology contributes to media and IT studies, gender studies, and African studies. Her work addresses questions relating to politics, gender, migration and diaspora, war, globalization, transnationalism, civil society and activism, development, digital media, and Islam. Dr. Bernal’s research is particularly concerned with relations of power and inequality and the dynamic struggles of ordinary people as they confront the cruel and absurd contradictions arising from the concentration of wealth and political power locally and globally.
Colloquium Speakers, continued

Peter Schmidt, professor at the University of Florida, explored changes in archaeological practice in northwest Tanzania in his talk entitled “Archaeologies of Listening: Community-Based and Participatory Heritage Research in Tanzania” in May.

Dolores Koenig gave a talk in May entitled “The Paradox of Struggle: Political Action After Forced Resettlement at Manantali, Mali”. Dolores is a specialist in international development, interested in both its challenges and successes. She is especially interested in finding new ways of talking about development and social change that value the experiences of local people while still taking into account the international context of global inequality. She is currently Buffett Institute Visiting Scholar and professor of Anthropology at American University in Washington, D.C.

Mark Flinn, in his talk “Hormones in the Wild: Physiological Adaptations for the Human Social Relationships”, discussed his field study of child stress and family environment in a rural community in Dominica, where he documented the hormonal responses of children to everyday interactions with their parents and other care providers, concomitant with longitudinal assessment of developmental and health outcomes. Mark is professor of Anthropology at University of Missouri.

The Northwestern University Anthropology Department Colloquium Series is centered around a theme each year; this year, the theme was “Northwestern Alumni”.

Farewell to Chair Bill Leonard

On August 31, 2016, Prof Bill Leonard steps down as Chair of the Department of Anthropology. Bill has served the Department in this role since 2003. During this time Anthropology has gone from success to success. We have grown dramatically in size and risen in national rankings to become one of the top Departments of its kind in North America and indeed across the world. This success has been due in no small part to the dedication, professional skill, political acumen and human decency of Prof Leonard. Faculty, students and staff all owe Bill a huge debt and we are planning a formal event in the fall to express our very deep appreciation of everything that he has done.—Matthew Johnson
Anthropology in the Public Square

Noelle Sullivan discusses the phenomenon of “voluntourism” in her article Posing as a Doctor is Illegal...unless you go to the "Developing World.", originally published in the Orlando Sentinel. Read More.

Thom McDade discusses the role of microbes in human health: Big Picture Science - With All Our Mites: Thomas McDade I Our Microbe Guardians. Read More.

Ana Aparicio fact-checks several public statements from the 2016 Republican presidential primary race, Debunking the GOP Candidates’ Anti-Immigration Stance. Read More.


Chris Kuzawa discusses his findings on the links between metabolism, evolution and human brain size in a May 2016 article in The Guardian. Read More.

Shalini Shankar discusses race, names, inclusion, and American higher education in an article for The American Prospect. Read More.
Undergraduate Honors Theses

◊ Food culture in Seville: An Assessment of Local Food Preferences in the Face of Globalized Food Markets—Kirby Barth

◊ Urban Agriculture: Revolutionizing Health and Communities in Cuba—Erin Bennett

◊ Athletes, Not Superheroes: An Investigation Identifying Stressors, Impacts of Stress, and Support System Needs of Northwestern University Female Student-Athletes—Rachel Bergman

◊ Are You What You Eat? Investigating Dietary Acculturation Among East Asian International College Students in the United States—Chia-Ping Chin

◊ An Examination of Potential Bone Weathering Agents at Swartkrans Cave—Elizabeth Fillion

◊ Colonial Frontiers: Understanding Space and Re-appropriating Place Across Culture and Time in Northern Belize—Melissa Jones

◊ Is health a choice, or is it chance? Understanding how the Blue Zones Projects Operate as a Public Health Intervention to Construct Health in the United States—Nicolas Leighton

◊ BRIDGING TWO WORLDS: The Integrative Use of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Biomedicine by Chinese College Students—Michelle Lu

◊ Ceramics and Trade: Relations Between the Wari State Center and its Administrative Centers Through Pigments—Lauren Monz

◊ The Declining Number of Japanese International Students in the United States: Exploring Why They Come, Who has Access to Such an Opportunity, and the Effects This Experience Has on Cultural Identity—Shoma Murakawa

◊ Fitting into Beautiful Bodies: Ethnographic Examination of Mexican-American Young Adult Cultural Norms and the U.S. Obesity Epidemic—Connie Panton

◊ The Politics of “Community Engagement” Community Health Workers and Instrumentalization of “the Community” in Global Health—Neha Reddy

◊ Beyond the Collapse: Settlement Survey, Ceramic Analysis, and Site Continuity at Aventura, Belize—Jennifer S.Reese

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